



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VINTAGE WWII BOMBER TO MAKE INTRODUCTORY TOUR STOP at BRANSON MISSOURI

SPRING, TEXAS – *Texas Raiders*, an authentically restored B-17 Bomber, celebrated its forty years of historic preservation in 2011 with flights honoring the veterans who served during World War Two and introducing this segment of history to the visiting public. This previously award-winning Flying Fortress will make its first appearance at Branson, Missouri offering walk-through tours and rides and bringing the community in touch with a unique part of history. The B-17 now known as *Texas Raiders* was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force July 12, 1945 and is one of just nine (9) left flying in the United States today.

After nearly eight years of its most recent and extensive restoration, this B-17 Bomber became airworthy in 2009 and has flown in air shows throughout the central Midwestern United States, conducted sports-event flyovers and reunited remaining World War Two veterans with their link to the aircraft flown in the European and Pacific theatres of this historic period. Although the non-profit 501-(c)-3 organization, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) is the owner of this vintage Bomber, the maintenance, restoration and operation is assigned to the Gulf Coast Wing, an all volunteer CAF membership group. With a fuel-burn of 225 gallons per hour and numerous other expenses, it is estimated that the cost to operate this vintage Bomber is \$3,000 per flying hour.

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WORLD WAR II BOMBER

Page 2

To support the flying operation of *Texas Raiders*, the volunteer members of the Gulf Coast Wing will be offering rides and tours at the Branson Jet Center, Branson Airport located at 4000 Branson airport Boulevard, Hollister Missouri 65672 Tuesday, July 24, 2012 through Thursday, July 26 2012. Departure for the remainder of the B-17 fifteen-day tour throughout the Midwest will be on Friday morning the 27th of July. All donations for tours and rides are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Texas Raiders became a member of the Commemorative Air Force's *Ghost Squadron* in September of 1967 and was thereby assigned to the Gulf Coast Wing in 1971. This unique B-17 Bomber is currently featured in *WARBIRDS INTERNATIONAL*, *FLYPAST* and *AOPA* magazines. She has appeared in two movies, *Ike The War Years* and *Brady's Escape*, one PBS Documentary *Honor Squadrons* and two television commercials.

Collecting, restoring and flying warbirds for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force ranks as one of the largest private air forces in the world. The CAF is dedicated to honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance with a flying museum of classic military aircraft. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has approximately 9,000 members and a fleet of almost 160 airplanes representing more than 60 different types – including planes from several foreign countries and military conflicts since WWII. For more CAF information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org or call (432) 563-1000. For more information on tours and rides on *Texas Raiders*, contact Sandy Thompson, Public Information Officer at 817 304 0393 or info@gulfcoastwing.org